Water dispute between Punjab and Haryana

1840. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab has refused to spare water for Haryana;

(b) if so, what are the options left for the Centre;

(c) when the rest of the provisions of Rajiv-Longowal Accord are to be attended; and

(d) whether parties concerned made any headway in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) No. Sir. The Ravi-Bias Tribunal is seized of the issue regarding sharing of river waters between the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) The Rajiv-Longowal Accord included 11 items, of which 8 have already been implemented. The three items which remain to be implemented are: (1) All India Gurdwaras Act (2) Territorial Claims and (3) Sharing of Rivers waters.

As regards All India Gurdwaras Act, the Ministry of Law, Government of India had prepared a draft Bill in 1986 in pursuance of the Accord. All the State Governments/UTs were requested to give their views regarding the enactment of All India Gurdwaras Act. In response thereto, the State Government of Punjab sent another draft Bill in 1993. There has been no unanimity on this so far. In the meanwhile Chief Commissioner, Gurdwara Elections, Chandigarh prepared a draft Bill in 1999 on his own initiative which has been circulated to Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Amritsar, National Commission for Minorities and the concerned State Government/UTs for their views and suggestions which are awaited.

With respect to Territorial Claims between Punjab and Haryana, Government of India would like the concerned States to sort out their differences over the issue and would be willing to help in the matter.